

DRAFT

**THE VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at Confederate Hills Recreation Center, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia. Chairman Dr. Steven R. Staples called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven R. Staples, Chairman
Everett Patterson
Lorne Seay
Dudley Harris
Earl Dickerson
Darold Kemp
Robert Bess
Alton Glass

STAFF PRESENT: C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner, DOLI
Beverley Donati, Division Director
Patricia Morrison, Assistant Division Director
Reba O'Connor, Policy & Planning Specialist
Donna Carvana, Apprenticeship Representative
Cetrel Coleman, Apprenticeship Representative
Holly Clary, Human Resource Director
Eric Deila, Acting Policy Analyst
Willnette Taylor, Sr. Program Support Technician

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Staples called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked Henrico Public Schools for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Council members introduced themselves.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Ray Louth, the Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA) President and VAAA member Gary Duff presented an award to Dr. James Hughes as the VAAA 5th Annual Golf Tournament Honoree.

OUTSTANDING APPRENTICE AWARDS:

Joe Hersch, the Regional Director for the Office of Apprenticeship, U.S. Department of Labor brought greetings from National Director, John Ladd. Mr. Hersch recognized the Virginia

State government for the administration of the Virginia Registered Apprenticeship program, the fine graduates, the award recipients and the employers who participate in the program.

Commissioner Ray Davenport offered congratulations to the journeyworkers for their commitment to their trade and special congratulations to the Outstanding Apprentices. Also, thanks given to the sponsors for their commitment to the program. The best reason to participate in Registered Apprenticeship is because it has proven time and time again that it allows workers to prosper. It works better than any other program in workforce development. The Commissioner challenged the Outstanding Apprentices to share what they have learned and to commit to life-long learning.

The following were recognized:

Travis Jarvis, an inside machinist for Norfolk Naval Shipard, Portsmouth, Virginia.

Michael Jordan, an electrician from HEC Construction, Inc., Ashland, Virginia.

Eric Kilner, a marine designer from Northrop Grumman Newport News, Newport News, Virginia.

Thomas Mezzanotte an electric utility designer from Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative, Gainesville, Virginia.

Awards were given by the Virginia Apprenticeship Council and the Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association. Photos followed the presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

There were no comments offered by Council members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes for the Council meeting held on September 25, 2008 were approved unanimously by Council members.

CORRESPONDENCE:

M.C. Dean, one of the sponsors, alerted the Division that one of their apprentices had been killed on his 21st birthday, en route to work. The Company has asked for an acknowledgement from the Council. Everett Patterson, chair of the Outstanding Apprentice committee will facilitate a process and make a recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS:

At the September meeting, it was explained that sponsor M.C. Dean revised their standards and their method of related instruction delivery recently. At that meeting, comments about some of the descriptive language in the related instruction raised concern. M.C. Dean has revised their description of related instruction to no longer include homework or projects as part of the related instruction. More on this matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to report.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Earl Dickerson reported on the process of reviewing a Request for Exemption from Examination from an electrical company. The company has provided 24 years of apprenticeship sponsorship and provided excellent documentation regarding their related instruction. The recommendation was to approve exemption from examination. On proper motion and second, the motion carried by roll call vote.

REPORTS:

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni Association (VAAA):

Ray Louth, President of the VAAA thanked Gary Duff for his hard work and dedication to make a successful golf tournament. He announced that 2009 will be the first year that the VAAA will offer scholarships. For 2009, they will award 2 \$1,000 awards to a selected alumni chosen from written applications that will be called for this upcoming spring.

Thanks were given to the VAC selection committee for choosing exceptional Outstanding Apprentices. The next VAAA meeting will be in March, the location to be determined at a later date.

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC):

No report

Virginia Community College System:

At the last council meeting a question about M.C. Dean's changes in related instruction was brought up. The Virginia Community College System spoke with Mr. Stephen Clare, the instructional coordinator for M.C. Dean and learned that they are utilizing Blackboard as a pilot program to track their hours on line. Additionally, each apprentice is to set up a time with a subject matter expert to complete the performance portion of the curriculum material. Mr. Clare estimates that they will have clocked 160 hours of actual instructional time for the year.

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship:

Jim Walker, Director spoke of President Elect Obama's transition team visiting the National office. Additionally, he informed the Council of the briefing paper, The Future of the National Registered Apprenticeship System: A Workforce Strategy for Main Street America. Currently, there are 486,000 apprentices nationally.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Bev Donati described the virtual and phone training methods that the Division of Registered Apprenticeship is using in lieu of travel/training money. The Division utilized several free classes offered by the state's Department of Human Resource Management and conducted its own "phone" training. The upside to the current economic decline is that it allows the representatives to develop deeper relationships with the sponsors. Ms. Donati assured the Council that the Division was continuing to keep quality customer service as a high priority.

The final report for the Career Pathways task force has been released. One of the recurring comments from the consultants was how Virginia demonstrates that several agencies can work together.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport reviewed the budget cuts imposed on the Department of Labor and Industry. To date it has been \$331 thousand in August, 2007, \$85 thousand in August, 2008 and an additional \$465 thousand for the 08/09 fiscal year for a total of \$881 thousand. The Agency has 30 vacancies that will not be filled at this time including 2 supervisor positions in the Registered Apprenticeship position. The Commissioner expressed his hope that the Headquarters staff and field positions would remain untouched.

The Commissioner wished the Council a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19th, 2009 at a location to be determined.

Dr. Staples announced that this would be his last meeting as a Council member stating that since retiring from York County Schools, it was now an opportunity to appoint another School Superintendent as directed by the appointment rules.

Dr. Staples was recognized by USDOL Director Jim Walker, Commissioner Davenport and Earl Dickerson on behalf of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council as a parting farewell.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a. m.

Dr. Steven R. Staples

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary